Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 5224

CONFIDENTIALOECD PARIS 02662

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: TPHY, OECD

SUBJECT: RUMOR CONCERNING CHAIRMANSHIP 5TH OECD MEETING

OF SCIENCE MINISTERS: JUNE 24-25, 1975

- 1. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT A RUMOR HAS SUDDENLY SNOWBALLED AMONG DELEGATIONS TO THE OECD THAT VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER WILL ATTEND AND CHAIR SUBJECT MEETING IF THE MEETING IS APPROVED TO BE HELD BY OECD COUNCIL. A NUMBER OF OTHER MISSIONS HAVE ALREADY REPORTED TO THEIR CAPITALS IMPARTING VARIOUS MEASURES OF CREDENCE TO THE RUMOR. USMISSION HAS BEEN RECEIVING CALLS REQUESTING VERIFICATION.
- 2. THE IMMEDIATE ORIGIN OF THIS RUMOR STEMS FROM DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARY OF STATE (OES) GRANGER WHO, AT AN EVENING MEETING OF THE EXTENDED BUREAU OF OECD COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY ON PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTERIAL, JAN. 27, MENTIONED ROCKEFELLER AS INDICATIVE OF THE KIND OF PERSON NEEDED TO CHAIR SUBJECT MEETING IN LIGHT OF BREADTH OF ISSUES PROPOSED. GRANGER TELLS US THAT AT MEETING OF EXTENDED BUREAU HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL SUGGESTION. GRANGER REPORTED THIS CONVERSATION TO MISSION AS WELL AS A SIMILAR CONVERSATION AT A SMALL LUNCHEON HOSTED BY FRG SCIATT ON JAN. 28. GRANGER REPORTS THAT AT LUNCHEON HE ATTEMPTED TO DAMPEN CONFIDENTIAL

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ENTHUSIASM OF SOME PRESENT BY REITERATING SAME CAVEAT

OF NON-OFFICIAL NATURE OF DISCUSSION OF THE EVENING BEFORE. THE APPARENT ORIGIN OF THIS "UNOFFICIAL" SUGGESTION, AS REPORTED TO THE MISSION BY GRANGER, WAS A MEETING IN NSF DIRECTOR STEVER'S OFFICE ON JAN. 24 WHERE ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS CASUALLY MENTIONED VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER AS INDICATIVE OF THE KIND OF PERSON NEEDED TO CHAIR SUBJECT MEETING.

3. MISSION IS CURRENTLY RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES THAT SPECULATION BOTH ON VICE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE AND CHAIRMANSHIP IS ENTIRELY UNFOUNDED AT THIS TIME. RUMOR HAS REACHED OECD SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP WHO WILL BE RESPONDING IN THE SAME VEIN. TURNER

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